

The Clerk read the proceedings of the Board of Officers and Council at a special meeting held this evening.

Mr. Peale laid upon the table for the inspection of members of the Society, the Certificate of Membership of his father, which bears date July, 1786, and is signed by B. Franklin, as President.

Stated Meeting, December 6.

Present, eighteen members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Royal Danish Society of Sciences of Copenhagen, dated 14th November, 1849, returning thanks for the Transactions, Vol. IX. Part 3d, and Vol. X. Part 1, and for Nos. 38 to 42, of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From the same, of same date, announcing a donation: and—

From John M. Bernhisel, agent of the inhabitants of the Territory of Utah, accompanying a printed circular, soliciting donations of books for a library for the inhabitants of said Territory.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskabs Skrifter. Femte Række. Naturvidenskabelig og Matematisk Afdeling. Første Bind. Kiöbenhavn, 1849. 4to.—*From the Royal Danish Society of Sciences, Copenhagen.*

Oversigt over det Kgl. Danske Videnskabernes Selskabs Forhandlingar, og dets Medlemmers Arbeider, i Aaret 1847, 1848. Kiöbenhavn, 1848-9. 8vo.—*From the same.*

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society. Vol. V. No. 2. 1850. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. New Series. Vol. II. Part 1. Philadelphia, Nov. 1850. 4to.—*From the Academy.*

- Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, from Sept. 3 to Oct. 27, 1850. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XX. No. 5. Nov. 1850. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- Della Mnemotecnica, ovvero del modo di meravigliosamente facilitar la Memoria mediante l'associazione delle idee. Dissertazione del Prof. Taddeo dei Consoni, Mnemonico, Stenografo, Criptografo, &c. &c. Firenze, 1848. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Contributions to the Natural History of the Acalephæ of North America. By L. Agassiz. May, 1849. 4to.—*From the Author.*
- Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge. The Classification of Insects from Embryological data. By Prof. Louis Agassiz. Aug. 1849. 4to.—*From the same.*
- The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. No. 30. Nov. 1850. With an Index to the first ten volumes. New Haven. 8vo.—*From Profs. Silliman and Dana, Editors.*
- Code of Rules and Regulations for the government of those employed in the care of the Patients of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, near Philadelphia. Second Edition. Philadelphia, 1850. 8vo.—*From the Author, Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride.*
- Observations on the Fishes of Nova Scotia and Labrador, with Descriptions of New Species. By Horatio Robinson Storer. (From the Boston Journal of Natural History, Oct. 1850). 8vo.—*From Charles Girard.*
- The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil. Vol. III. No. 6. Dec. 1850. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Editor, J. S. Skinner, Esq.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. VIII. No. 96. Dec. 1850. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Messrs. Lea & Blanchard.*

Mr. Justice submitted for the inspection of such of the members as are interested in numismatics, a specimen of the rare coin known as the Washington Half-dollar.

The history of this coin is not exactly known, but tradition states that a few were struck and submitted to the government as samples, when the project for establishing a mint was first entertained. Orders were immediately issued for the cessation of the issue, and for breaking the dies. The coin bears the effigy of Washington, with the legend, "G. Washington. President I. 1792." On the reverse, an eagle with spread wings, bearing the shield of the United States, with the olive branch and arrows, its head surrounded by the 13 stars, and the legend, "United States of America."

Mr. Richards exhibited a piece of plumbago from the Southampton mine, Bucks county. The specimen was $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, by $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick, and was sawed from a much larger piece, remarkable for its purity. Mr. R. stated that the plumbago of this mine had been found better for the purposes of making crucibles, &c. than the imported article, on account of its greater purity, but that, unfortunately, it was more expensive owing to the depth of the mine and the difficulty of working it. Mr. R. gave a brief history of the mine.

A discussion in regard to the geology of the district arose, in which Dr. Coates, Mr. Trego, and Prof. Frazer took part.

Mr. Justice made some remarks upon a recent statement as to the beneficial effects of wire gauze in case of near-sightedness, which led to a discussion, in which Dr. Coates, Dr. Hays, and Prof. Cresson took part.

The Treasurer of the Society and the Committee on Publication made their annual Reports, which were referred as usual.

Pending nominations were read.

There being no sufficient quorum present, the alterations of the laws could not be considered.

Stated Meeting, December 20.

Present, twenty-six members.

Dr. PATTERSON, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From Baron Von Hammer Purgstall, dated Vienna, 30th April, 1850; and from Benjamin Ferris, dated Wilmington, State of Delaware, respectively announcing donations to the Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

The following works by the Baron Von Hammer Purgstall, of Vienna:—

Abhandlung über die Siegel der Araber, Perser und Türken.